

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 9099

DEPT PASS TO SCI, NSC, AEC/OCM, DIP, ISA FROM DR. OMENN WHITE
HOUSE FELLOW AT USAEC

E.O: 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, IN

SUBJECT: DR. OMENN'S TRIP, MEETING 2 JULY IN PARIS WITH DR.
BERTRAND GOLDSCHMIDT, COMMISSION D'ENERGIE ATOMIQUE

BEGIN SUMMARY: DISCUSSION WITH DEPSCIATT EDWARD MALLOY PRESENT,
FOCUSED ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES OF NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS. MORNING
ISSUE OF INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE (2 JULY) CARRIED MAJOR
COLUMN BY SULZBERGER STRONGLY IMPLYING THAT FRENCH ARE LAX
ON SAFEGUARDS, BOTH IN THE CASE OF THE DIMONA PLANT, AND IN
PRESENT PROPOSED DEAL WITH THE SHAH OF IRAN. COLUMN EVEN SAID
FRENCH POWER REACTORS (IN IRAN) WOULD NOT BE SUBJECT TO SAFEGUARDS,
"SINCE FRANCE NEVER SIGNED THE NPT," WHILE US IS "SELLING IRAN TWO
REACTORS UNDER STRICT SAFEGUARDS." HERBLOCK CARTOON ADJACENT
WAS "LITTLE A BOMBS FOR LITTLE COUNTRIES." END SUMMARY.

1. DR. GOLDSCHMIDT DISPUTED OMENN'S OPENING COMMENT THAT
THERE IS CONSIDERABLE CONCERN EVERYWHERE THESE DAYS ABOUT THE
MATTER OF SAFEGUARDS. "WE FRENCH ARE NOT SO CONCERNED."

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2. HE RIDICULED SULZBERGER RATHER GENERALLY AND THEN POINTEDLY NOTED THAT SAFEGUARDS FOR IRANIAN REACTORS WOULD BE IDENTICAL, WHETHER OF FRENCH OR US ORIGIN, SINCE IRAN IS A SIGNATORY OF THE NPT.

3. HE WARMED TO THE SUBJECT FINALLY AND DESCRIBED PAST AND PRESENT FRENCH POSITION AS FLEXIBLE AND RESPONSIBLE. HE CITED SEVERAL DIFFERENT ARRANGEMENTS: (A) DIRECT INVOLVEMENT BY FRENCH IN REACTOR AT SPANISH-FRENCH BORDER (3/4 SPANISH, 1/4 FRENCH CONTRIBUTION) AND IN FAST BREEDER IN INDIA, SO THAT "WE KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON"; (B) FULL IAEA AGREEMENT IN CASE OF SALE OF FUEL TO CHILE; (C) IRAN HAS ITS OWN OBLIGATIONS TO IAEA, AS NOTED ABOVE, THOUGH, OF COURSE, NO CONTRACTS HAVE YET BEEN DRAFTED WITH IRAN FOR THE PROPOSED POWER REACTOR SALE; (D) HYPOCRISY OF SIGNATORIES IN LEGALLY CIRCUMVENTING INVEXIBLE NPT REQUIREMENTS VIA ELABORATELY CREATED LOOPHOLES, IN CASE OF FRENCH PURCHASE OF PLUTONIUM-239 FROM CANADA (DOLS 22 KG. VS. MARKET PRICE THEN OF DOLS 40). FRENCH READILY AGREED TO CANADIAN INSPECTIONS, HE SAID. SINCE PLUTONIUM CAME FROM INDIA, CANADIANS RELIZED AT LAST MINUTE NEED FOR INDIAN CONCURRENCE, WHICH WAS REFUSED. FINALLY, INDIANS WERE PUT ON INSPECTION TEAM AS "CANADIANS OF DIFFERENT COLOR."

4. INDIAN EXPLOSION: GOLDSCHMIDT DESCRIBED THE EXPLOSION AS "HARDLY SURPRISING." HE SAID, "WE DO NOT APPROVE OF PROLIFERATION, BUT WE CANNOT CONSIDER IT A CRIME" FOR HAVE-NOT COUNTRIES TO JOIN NUCLEAR CLUB. FRENCH ARE SYMPATHETIC TO INDIANS SINCE FRANCE WAS ONCE "THE LAST TO JOIN THE NUCLEAR CLUB." HE NOTED WITH DISAPPROVAL THE LACK OF SAFEGUARDS FOR THE CIRUS REACTOR IN INDIA, AS WELL AS THE DIMONA REACTOR, BUT ATTRIBUTED THE LACK TO THE GENERAL TENOR OF THE TIMES AND TO FRENCH POLITICAL NEEDS AFTER THE SUEZ DEBACLE OF 1956. HE REJECTS THE CONCERN ABOUT PAKISTANI CAPABILITY AND DENIED THAT FRENCH OR OTHERS WOULD HELP THE PAKISTANIS TO DEVELOP NUCLEAR CAPABILITY.

5. NPT IN GENERAL (SEE ITEMS 3 AND 4 ABOVE): FRANCE WILL CONTINUE TO REJECT NPT, FOR REASONS GIVEN ABOVE AND FOR HISTORICAL REASONS. HE CITED US/UK SQUABBLING IN 1942-44 PERIOD AND GYPOCRITICAL CHANGE OF SOVIET RHETORIC BETWEEN 1962 AND 1963. HE GAVE DR. OMENN A COPY OF HIS BOOK, "THE ATOMIC RIVALRIES," 1939-1966, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND AUTOGRAPHED IT FOR HIM.

6. DISCOUNTED CONCERNS ABOUT EGYPT AND ISRAEL, POINTING TO LONG TIME TILL SPENT FUEL WILL BE AVAILABLE AND TO OBVIOUS US PRESSURE FOR CLOSE SAFEGUARDING. SUCH SPECIAL SAFEGUARD ARRANGEMENTS SUIT GOLDSCHMIDT'S PREFERENCE FOR CASE-BY-CASE FLEXIBLE SAFEGUARDS REQUIREMENTS.

7. RE ATMOSPHERIC TESTS OF FRENCH WEAPONS; HE THINKS IT IS HYPOCRITICAL OF MR. WILSON (UK) TO COMPLAIN ABOUT FRENCH TESTS WHILE SECRETLY CARRYING OUT HIS OWN TESTS IN NEVADA. INSISTED FRENCH TEST CAUSED TOO LITTLE RADIOACTIVITY TO MATTER TO ANYONE. NOTE: WHEN OMENN VISITED SOUTH AFRICAN AEC IN FEBRUARY 1974 (REPORT TO AEC/DIP), HE WAS SHOWN DATA ON IODINE-131 FALLOUT WITHIN NINE DAYS IN AIR AND MILK IN BELT ACROSS NORTHERN PART OF SOUTH AFRICA FROM PREVIOUS FRENCH TEST. NOTE: DR. PIET AND MR. MALLOY REPORT THAT THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT FRENCH ARE COMPLETING PREPARATIONS FOR UNDERGROUND TESTING AT PRESENT ISLAND SITE OF THEIR WEAPONS TESTS.
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